

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 SP-02 L-02 NSC-07 NSCE-00

INR-10 CIAE-00 EB-03 SWF-01 IO-03 SAM-01 SAJ-01 SAB-01

DRC-01 RSC-01 /064 W

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R 110841Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4170

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5791

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

REF: ECBRUSSELS 4334, STATE 238459, TEL AVIV 1979

1. THE ISRAELIS COMPLETED ANOTHER ROUND OF NEGOTIATION OF A NEW TRADE AGREEMENT WITH EC ON OCTOBER 4. ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS HERE, MAIN ELEMENTS OF AGREEMENT WERE SETTLED ALTHOUGH SEVERAL POINTS ARE STILL UNRESOLVED. BOTH SIDES ARE NOW WORKING ON A DRAFT TEXT FOR AN AGREEMENT WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR LATE NOVEMBER. WHILE ISRAELIS ARE PLEASED ABOUT PROGRESS OF TALKS AND EXPECT REMAINING ISSUES TO BE AGREED FAIRLY EASILY, THEY CONCEDE THAT IT MAY BE NEXT SPRING BEFORE A FINAL AGREEMENT CAN BE SIGNED. TIMING WILL DEPEND ON PROGRESS OF EC NEGOTIATIONS WITH MAHGREB STATES AND SPAIN. WHICH REPORTEDLY ARE MOVING SLOWLY.

2. ISRAELI OFFICIALS SAY THAT FOLLOWING WAS AGREED AT LAST SESSION:(A)EC WILL REDUCE CXT TO ZERO ON ISRAELI INDUSTRIAL GOODS BY JULY, 1977. TARIFF CEILINGS WILL BE MAINTAINED ON CERTAIN PRODUCTS UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1979 BUT

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THERE WILL BE NO QR'S. FOR AGRICULTURE, CXT ON ISRAELI

ORANGES WILL BE REDUCED TO 8 PERCENT I..3., 60 PERCENT REDUCTION
COMPARED TO PRESENT 40 PERCENT. THERE WILL BE STANDSTILL OF UK DUTY OF
5 PERCENT ON ORANGES. NOT LATER THAN 1978 PARTIES WILL DISCUSS
FURTHER 20 PERCENT REDUCTION OF ORANGE DUTY. SMALLER REDUCTIONS IN
CXT WILL APPLY TO OTHER ISRAELI AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS:
(B) ISRAEL, FOR ITS PART, WILL CUT ITS TARIFFS TO ZERO OVER
SIX-YEAR PERIOD FOR 60 PERCENT OF EC INDUSTRIAL GOODS. TARIFFS ON
REMAINDER OF INDUSTRIAL GOODS WILL GO TO ZERO OVER TWELVE
YEARS STARTING JANUARY 1, 1978. ISRAEL WILL GRANT NO TARIFF
PREFERENCES IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

3. EC REPORTEDLY ADOPTED CAUTIOUS POSITION WITH REGARD
ISRAELI REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, SUGGESTING ONLY THAT
ISRAEL MIGHT SET SOME ASSISTANCE IF EC DECIDES TO EXTEND
ASSISTANCE TO SUCH ARAB NEIGHBORS AS EGYPT AND SYRIA.
KEATING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT DRAFT, AGRICULTURAL POLICIES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TELAV05791
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740289-1076
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741050/aaaabqyt.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: ECBRUSSELS 4334, STATE 238459, TEL A, VIV 1979
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <30 JUL 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
TAGS: ETRD, IS, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005